

REMARKS

Claims 1-32 are pending. Claim 33 has been canceled. If additional fees are due, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees, or credit any overpayment, to Shell Oil Company, Deposit Account No. 19-1800.

Claim rejections under 35 U.S.C. 112

Claim 33 has been rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention. See Office Action page 2, paragraph 2. The Office Action indicates that claim 33 recites the limitation "the gaseous overhead fraction" in lines 2-3. The Office Action further indicates that there is insufficient antecedent basis for this limitation in the claim. The Office Action further indicates that claim 33 should be canceled to overcome this rejection. See Office Action page 2, paragraph 3.

Applicants respectfully traverse the rejections. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections are respectfully requested in view of the amendments and remarks. Applicants respectfully suggest that the claim rejections under 35 U.S.C. 112 have been rendered moot by Applicants' cancellation of claim 33.

Allowable Subject Matter

The Office Action at page 2, paragraph 4, indicates that claims 1-32 are allowed.

CONCLUSION

Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of the claim rejections under 35 U.S.C 112. Applicants further respectfully request entry and consideration of the above amendments and remarks to advance the above-identified application to allowance.

Respectfully submitted,

BRAS, EDUARD C. et al.

By: Reece A. Scott
Attorney, Reece A. Scott
Registration No. 41,297
(713) 241-7256

P.O. Box 2463
Houston, Texas 77252-2463